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Czech translation equivalents of English question tags  
of the opposite polarity

České překladové koreláty anglických tázacích dovětek  
s opačnou polaritou

BAKALÁŘSKÁ PRÁCE

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## 1. Introduction

The aim of this thesis is to compare English question tags of the opposite polarity with their Czech counterparts drawn from fiction and to describe the form and function of this type of *yes-no* question specific for English. First of all, types of question tags based on polarity and intonation will be defined and described. Then the pragmatic functions of the question tags will be assessed and their categorization will be described, with regard to the differences in classification according to different authors. Secondly, the situation in Czech will be described and possible translation equivalents of question tags will be suggested. Thirdly, the methodology of the excerption of the examples and their Czech equivalents from ParaConc will be explained. As to the practical part, the examples will be sorted out according to previously defined pragmatic categories and their Czech equivalents will be analysed.

## 2. Theoretical Background

In many languages there are various kinds of expressions, so called tags, that can be appended to a sentence. Anne Wichmann (2007, 349) calls them question extensions, Gunnel Tottie and Sebastian Hoffmann (2006, 283) include them into the general category of tag questions. It is for example the French *n'est-ce pas*, the German *nicht war*, the Spanish *verdad*, the Swiss *oder*, the Czech *že (ano)*, *že ne*, or the almost archaic *není-liž pravda*. These all are, according to Wichmann (2007, 349), conducive tags because they require either a positive or a negative response. In the languages mentioned above, those short expressions are fixed, i.e. they do not change with the subject or verb used in the preceding clause.

### 2.1. English Question Tags

In English, on the other hand, entire, relatively variable, clauses have a similar function. These are particular types of *yes-no* questions, generally called tag questions or question tags. Nevertheless, different authors may use different terminology. To differentiate these from the invariable tags, Tottie and Hoffmann speak about the so called canonical tag questions (they use the term canonical invented by Janet Holmes and used in her work *The Functions of Tag Questions* (1983)).

### 2.1.1 Definition of the Tag Question

In *CGEL* (A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language: Quirk et al.; 1995), a tag question is defined as a type of *yes-no* question appended to a statement and consisting of an operator and a subject, where the subject is a personal pronoun. All the following examples are taken from *CGEL*.

(1) She knows you, doesn't she? (*CGEL*, 810)

Negative question tags usually take the contracted form, as in the preceding example, but in formal English "the negative particle is placed after the pronoun: *did they not?*, *is she not?* That position is usual in informal English in Northern BrE dialects." (*CGEL*, 810) If the subject of the statement is also a pronoun, as above, it is simply repeated in the tag question. If the subject of the statement is a noun, the pronoun in the tag question has to be co-referential with the subject of the statement and has to agree with it in number, person and gender:

(2) The boat hasn't left, has it? (*CGEL*, 810)

Tottie and Hoffman (2006) and other contemporary linguists call the clause preceding the tag an **anchor**. This term comes from Huddleston and Pullum (2002, 891) and will be used further on in this work. Various other terms, like basic clause, host clause, main clause, matrix clause, reference clause or stem clause were used by other authors.

Tottie and Hoffmann (2006) specify that the subject in the anchor can be either a full noun phrase, a pronoun, or *there*. The subject in the tag can therefore be either a personal pronoun, *there*, or *one*.

*CGEL* states that the operator in the tag is usually the same as the operator of the anchor. As in all *yes-no* questions, if there is no operator present in the preceding statement, the dummy auxiliary *do* is used in the tag:

(3) Joan recognized you, didn't she? (*CGEL*, 810)

As far as intonation is concerned, the nuclear tone of the tag occurs on the auxiliary, and can be either rising or falling. Based on the combination of intonation and polarity of the anchor and the tag, *CGEL* distinguishes four main types of question tags. These will be described later below.

If the anchor is a complex sentence, the tag uses the pronoun and auxiliary co-referential with the main clause. When verbs like *suppose*, *think*, *assume*, *reckon* etc. are used in the first person and followed by a *that*-clause, the tag mirrors the subject and auxiliary not of the main clause of the complex sentence, but of the *that*-clause.

(4) I suppose you're not serious, are you? (not \*I suppose you're not serious, don't I?) (CGEL, 811)

There are other exceptions to the general rule mentioned above: Usually, the tag question occurs at the end of the sentence. However, it can be also inserted in the middle of a long sentence between the constituents:

(5) It's true, isn't it, that you're thinking of giving up your job? (CGEL, 811)

Douglas Biber notes that the tag does not necessarily have to be placed at the very end of the clause but it cannot precede the verb phrase of the main clause. (Biber et al. 1999, 209)

Tottie and Hoffman (2006, 285) give an example of a non-utterance final tag from the spoken part of the British National Corpus:

(6) And right on the almost on the final whistle just before United scored in injury time, I think midfielder Martin Cool got in a very good volley didn't he from some distance, but it really was whistling toward goal?

The modal auxiliary *may* is not used very often in its abbreviated negative form. It is usually substituted by *won't* (when the reference is future), *mightn't*, or *can't*. In formal English it is possible to use the unabbreviated form *may – not*. (CGEL, 811)

When there is *used to* in the statement, the operator in the tag question is *did*. *Shouldn't* is sometimes used instead of the less common abbreviated form *oughtn't*. (CGEL, 812)

### **2.1.2 Categorization of Tag Questions Based on Polarity and Intonation**

As mentioned above, in *CGEL* question tags are generally divided into four main types (with opposite or reversed polarity) and one less common type (with constant polarity). The anchor here expresses an assumption and the tag expresses an expectation. The following examples are taken from *CGEL* (p. 811-812). The intonation is indicated before the tag: a slash “/” is used to indicate rising intonation and a backslash “\” to indicate falling intonation.

- a) positive statement and negative tag with rising tone:

(7) He likes his job, / doesn't he?

This sentence expresses a positive assumption with a neutral expectation. The tag with rising tone invites verification of the assumption.

- b) negative statement and positive tag with rising tone:

(8) He doesn't like his job, / does he?

This sentence expresses a negative assumption with a neutral expectation. Again, the tag with rising tone invites verification.

- c) positive statement and negative tag with falling tone:

(9) He likes his job, \ doesn't he?

Here, the tag with a falling tone invites confirmation of the statement, here positive.

When the focus of a positive sentence is on a gradable unit, a negative tag question with a falling tone can be used as a response utterance to express agreement:

(10) Their daughter is very clever. - (Yes,) \ Isn't she? (I agree.)

When the tag in the response is in constant polarity with the preceding statement, the tag response with a rising tone expresses surprise:

(11) A: Their daughter isn't very clever.

B: / Isn't she? (I thought she was.)

d) negative statement and positive tag with falling tone:

(12) He doesn't like his job, \ does he?

Again, the tag invites confirmation of the statement, here negative. As the tags in c) and d) do not function as questions, but rather as exclamations, those last two tags can be compared to an exclamatory *yes-no* question with a falling tone. Thus the sentence *It's wonderful weather, isn't it?* corresponds to the more emphatic exclamatory question *Isn't it wonderful weather!*

If we followed the pattern above, there would be at least two more types of tag questions. The first one would be as follows:

e) positive statement and positive tag with rising tone:

(13) So he likes his job, / does he?

In this case, as *CGEL* formulates it, the statement is very often preceded by *oh* or *so*, indicating the speaker's arrival at a conclusion by inference, or by recalling what has already been said, and is accompanied by a sarcastic tone. Its effect is scolding, sarcastic, or sarcastically contradictory. (Quirk et al. 1995, 812)

The last type, a negative statement followed by a negative tag is, as stated in *CGEL*, not used often enough by the speakers as to be accounted for as existing. Tottie and Hoffmann (2006, 290), though, argue that they have found several genuine examples of this type. Nevertheless, they admit that this type occurs rarely.

f) negative statement and negative tag:

(14) I bet you didn't buy a paper today either, did you not?

(15) Yes, they don't come cheap, don't they?

Lenka Vaňková gives one example of a negative anchor and a negative tag in her BA thesis:



(16) Didn't the Headmaster say that night-time prowling's out, unless you've got permission, didn't he, eh? (Vaňková 2009, 56)

Here, the negative interrogative clause with a negative question tag parallels a positive declarative clause with a negative question tag.

In the examples above we have seen the tags attached to declarative sentences and one interrogative sentence. However, they can be also used with imperatives and exclamatives. According to *CGEL*, the tags appended to imperative sentences invite the listener's consent. (813) The auxiliary in the tag is usually *won't/will* and the subject is most often *you*:

(17) Open the door, / won't you? (type a)

(18) Open the door, \ won't you? (type c)

(19) Open the door, / will you? (type e)

The first example, a negative tag of the opposite polarity with rising intonation, is the least insistent, the last, a positive tag of constant polarity, is most insistent. Other examples of subjects and auxiliaries are:

(20) Open the door, can't you?

(21) Hand me a knife, won't somebody?

(22) Turn on the light, will somebody or other?

(23) Save us a seat, can one of you?

(24) Have another one, why don't you?

The only possible negative imperative followed by a tag question is the type d.

(25) Don't make a noise, will you?

Here the tag is "a persuasive softener of the imperative. However, if the *will you?* is nonnuclear, it increases the peremptoriness of the directive." (*CGEL*, 813)

There is also the type where both the imperative and the tag are positive and have falling tones. However, such sentence is very peremptory and considered ill-mannered.

(26) \ Open the door, \ will you?

First person plural imperatives may take *shall we?* as a question tag:

(27) Let's play another game, shall we?

(28) Let's not discuss it now, shall we?

The tags of the first (only occasionally) and third type are used with exclamative sentences:

(29) How thin she is, \ isn't she? (type c)

(30) What a beautiful painting it is, / isn't it? (type a)

Here, the tag questions invite the hearer's agreement.

It is also possible to append the tag to abbreviated verbless exclamations (*CGEL*, 813):

(31) What a beautiful painting, isn't it?

(32) How odd, isn't it?

(33) Nice kitchen isn't it? (Biber et al. 1999, 209)

One example of an interrogative anchor has been quoted above. Vaňková has one more example. This is the more common type of a constant polarity question tag – a positive anchor and a positive tag:

(34) Do you know who you're talking to, you filthy little Mudblood, do you? (Vaňková 2009, 55)

Tottie and Hoffmann (2006, 289) also give one example of an interrogative anchor:

(35) Someone ill, is there?

More examples can be found in Biber (1999, 210):

(36) Do you want this do you, anywhere? (CONV)

(37) A: Oh that Earnest film's on tonight.

B: Oh is it tonight is it?

A: Yeah. (CONV)

According to Biber, the tag here underlines the speech-act function of the main clause. In all three examples the tag and the main clause are of the same (positive) polarity.

Biber notes that the tags are not always strictly modelled on the main clause, due to changes in the course of speaking. (Biber et al. 1999, 209) There can be two different addressees as in the following example:

(38) He's a right little misery when he wakes up, ain't you boy? (CONV)

Or the main clause involves only the speaker and the tag question involves also the addressee:

(39) I'm not talking dirty <laugh>, are we? (CONV)

He also gives one example of the change of auxiliary:

(40) I don't think she'll be very pleased, would she?

In the main clause, neutral future-referring auxiliary "will" is used and in the tag it changes into a hypothetical "would".

### **2.1.3 Invariant Tag Questions**

As in the other languages mentioned at the very beginning, in English there are also invariant expressions used as tag questions that can be appended to a sentence, regardless its subject and auxiliary. They take a rising tone and retain the same form whether the statement is positive or negative. Quirk et al. (1995: 814) give the following examples:

- am I right?
- isn't that so?
- don't you think?
- wouldn't you say?
- right? (informal)

- eh? (casual, may be impolite)

Huddleston and Pullum (2002, 1089) also mention expressions like: huh?, okay?, see?, typically used in familiar, casual exchanges. They say that “it would seem rude if they occurred in a formal situation.” (Huddleston and Pullum 2002, 1089).

*CGEL* (814) notes that comment clauses such as *you know* or *I hope* may also be considered invariant tags, although they are not questions.

A special case is the British *innit?*, which, as Tottie and Hoffmann (2006, 286) point out, can either function as an invariant form as in:

(41) That must be kids innit?

Or, and more often, it is simply an informal version of the tag *isn't it?* and it refers back to the verb *is* in the anchor:

(42) It's boring life really, innit really?

Invariant *innit* is sometimes considered as an expression which will take over the role of the canonical tag questions in the future. It is used especially by British teenagers. Some linguists (Tottie and Hoffmann mention Manfred Krug) think that the transformation of the English system of tag questions into a much simpler one has already begun. However, Tottie and Hoffmann (2006, 145) in their study point out that they found 200 different combinations of entire tags consisting of auxiliary, pronoun and optional enclitic *n't*. It seems therefore that although teenagers prefer simpler invariant forms, it is improbable that canonical tag questions are going to disappear from the conversation in the near future.

Similarly to *init*, British *weren't it* can be used as an invariant tag:

(43) Yeah, it says every fourth Friday though, *weren't it?*

*Ain't* plus pronoun was found in both varieties of English, referring back to forms of BE or HAVE (Tottie and Hoffmann 2006, 286):

(44) Hey, that's Bill Cosby, ain't it? (AmE)

(45) And you've got a pair of black shoes ain't you? (BrE)

### 2.1.4 Frequency and Function of the Tag Question

Apart from the classification of tag questions based on their polarity and intonation, it is also possible to classify them into pragmatic categories. Gunnel Tottie and Sebastian Hoffmann did so in the first quantitative study concerned with the differences in the use of tag questions between American and British English, called *Tag Questions in British and American English* (2006). They worked with the spoken component of the *British National Corpus* and with the *Longman Spoken American Corpus*. The *British National Corpus* consists of a "context-governed" part, which contains more formal language use, and a "demographic part" which contains informal spontaneous conversation (Tottie and Hoffmann 2006, 287). The demographic part of the *British National Corpus* is more similar to the *Longman Spoken American Corpus* than the whole *British National Corpus*. That is the reason why the authors worked only with the demographic part of the *British National Corpus*. The frequency of tag questions in the spoken demographic subpart of the *British National Corpus* is 4,383 pmw (per million words), while in the *Longman Spoken American Corpus* it is 455 pmw. Thus, according to these results, tag questions are more than nine times as frequent in British English as in American English.

Tottie and Hoffman also focus on the function of the tags. According to Biber et al. (1999, 1080), question tags "have an interactive function of eliciting the hearer's agreement or confirmation. They can also be seen as having a role of retrospective qualification. Here the qualification is pragmatic. The speaker begins by making an assertion, then retrospectively turns its force into that of a question." Tottie and Hoffman study the function of the question tags in detail. They point out that it has been studied before, but the scholars mostly used "constructed examples with imaginary contexts" (Tottie and Hoffman 2006, 297). On the other hand, they commend the work of Janet Holmes and John Algeo who have written several works on question tags "based on substantial empirical work" (Tottie and Hoffman 2006, 297) and whose systems they chose as a basis for their classification. This classification is based not on the polarity but on the function of the tags. Tottie and Hoffman claim that they have been "unable to correlate polarity types with pragmatic categories" (Tottie and Hoffman 2006, 302).

Janet Holmes "regards tags as hedges on the preceding proposition (the anchor in our terminology.)" (Tottie and Hoffman 2006, 297) Holmes works with two major categories: **epistemic modal** tags with

rising intonation and **affective** tags with, usually, falling intonation. The affective category has three following subtypes: **facilitative**, **softening**, and **challenging**.

According to Holmes (1995, 80), **epistemic modal** tags do not express politeness, but “genuine speaker uncertainty”. She gives the following example:

(46) Fay Weldon’s lecture is at eight / isn’t it

The speaker is not sure when the lecture starts, so he or she asks the addressee for confirmation.

To express politeness, we use **facilitative** tags. Holmes speaks about these as about “examples of hedges which serve as a positive politeness devices. They invite the addressee to contribute to the discourse” (Holmes 1995, 81):

(47) Host to a guest at her dinner party: You’ve got a new job Tom \ haven’t you?

On the other hand, **softening** tags are “negative politeness devices, used to attenuate the force of negatively affective utterances, such as directives ... and criticism ...” (Holmes 1995, 81). It is shown in the examples [48] and [49], respectively:

(48) Make a cup of tea / would you?

(49) Older brother to younger brother who has just stepped on the cat’s bowl and spilled her milk all over the floor: That was a really dumb thing to do \ wasn’t it?

**Challenging** tags are “confrontational strategies [which] may pressure a reluctant addressee to reply or aggressively boost the force of a negative speech act.” (Holmes 1995, 80, using an example from Thomas 1989, 152):

(50) Superintendent criticizing a detective constable’s performance:

A: Now you er fully understand that, \ don’t you?

B: Yes, Sir, indeed, yeah.

Algeo (1990) divides tags into **informational**, **confirmatory**, **punctuational**, **peremptory**, and **aggressive**. He later changes the last term into **antagonistic**.

**Informational tags:** “The speaker has an idea about something (the statement preceding the tag), but asks for information without presuming to know what the answerer will say. The tune of the tag is a rising intonation.” (Algeo 1990, 445)

(51) Q: You don't have to wear any sort of glasses or anything, / do you?

A: Well, I wear glasses for reading sometimes.

**Confirmatory:** Used “to draw the person addressed into the conversation. ... These tags ask for confirmation of what the speaker has said[.] ... The intonation of these tags may be a rising tune, but is more likely to be a falling one.” (Algeo 1990, 445-6)

(52) Q: But you don't have Swindon on your little map, \ do you?

A: No, I don't have Swindon on my map.

**Punctuational:** “Some tags are used ... merely to point up what the speaker has said [and] are the vocal equivalents of an exclamation point or of underlining for emphasis” (Algeo 1990, 446). Tottie and Hoffman compare these tags to stance adverbials, as indicators of speaker attitude (2006, 299).

(53) You classicists, you've probably not done Old English, have you? Course you haven't.

**Peremptory:** “A peremptory tag immediately follows a statement of obvious or universal truth, with which it is practically impossible to disagree.... the speaker considers the conversation about it at an end. ... The intonational tune is always a falling one. The tag is ... often a put-down of the addressee.” (Algeo 1990, 447-48)

(54) I wasn't born yesterday, was I?

**Aggressive:** “The aggressive tag is superficially similar to the peremptory one but with a crucial difference ... [it] follows a statement that is by no means obvious and that the addressee cannot be reasonably expected to know ... By implying that addressees ought to know what they actually cannot know, [it] is insulting and provocative” (Algeo 1990, 447).

(55) A: Is that your brother? [question addressed to a young man talking on the telephone]

Q: It's my dad, innit?

Based on the two systems described above, Tottie and Hoffman created their own classification system with the **epistemic modal** category containing **informational** and **confirmatory** tags and the **affective** category containing **facilitating**, **attitudinal**, **peremptory** and **aggressive** tags. The latter category would also contain Holmes' softening tags (between facilitating and attitudinal), but they found no unequivocal examples of this category in the subpart of the material that they classified for pragmatic function.

In this categorization, Algeo's confirmatory category is split into two, one of them belonging to the epistemic modal macro category, the other one, renamed facilitating, belonging to the affective macro category. Facilitating tags "make the addressee participate in interaction, although not always out of politeness" (Tottie and Hoffman 2006, 300). Algeo's punctuational category is renamed attitudinal "as it is a clear indicator of the stance-marking function of this type" (Tottie and Hoffman 2006, 300).

We will adhere to this classification system in the practical part of the thesis.

## 2.2 Situation in Czech

As was already mentioned above, in Czech the situation is much less complicated. There are only several versions of invariant expressions that are used similarly as question tags in English. Their polarity is mostly constant. After a positive sentence, we use interjections *že*, *že ano* (colloquial *že jo*, *vid'*), after a negative sentence, *že ne*. The interjection *ne* can be used both after a positive and after a negative sentence. It is also possible to use a neutral colloquial interjection *co* or the archaic *není-liž pravda*. According to *Příruční mluvnice češtiny* (Concise Grammar of Czech) (2000, 357), these expressions belong to the category of general contact and eliciting interjections (obecně kontaktová a vybízející citoslovce). It is impossible to express all the different meanings included in Tottie and Hoffman's categories discussed above only by these few expressions. It is thus very probable that the Czech equivalents of the various English question tags will be translated with use of different linguistic means, for example by transformation of the sentence into an exclamative or by inserting particles or adverbials into the sentence.



### 3. Material and Method

#### 3.1 Material

The main sources for the theoretical part were *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* by Quirk et al. (for general characteristics of question tags and their categorization based on polarity and intonation) and Tottie and Hoffman's article from the *Journal of English Linguistics*, vol. 34, "Tag Questions in British and American English". Their categorization based on pragmatic function of the question tags is also the basis for the empirical part of the thesis. Several other secondary texts were used, among which the two most important were *Longman Grammar of Spoken and Written English* by Douglas Biber et al. and *The Cambridge Grammar of the English Language* by Rodney Huddleston and Geoffrey K. Pullum.

**Table 1: Excerpted Novels**

Author	Novel	Variant
Margaret Atwood	<i>Life Before Man</i>	CanE
John Grisham	<i>The Partner</i>	AmE
John Irving	<i>A Widow for One Year</i>	AmE
Kazuo Ishiguro	<i>An Artist of the Floating World</i>	BrE
Michael Ondaatje	<i>The English Patient</i>	CanE
Chuck Palahniuk	<i>Choke</i>	AmE
Ellis Peters	<i>The Holy Thief</i>	BrE
Philip Roth	<i>The Human Stain</i>	AmE
Danielle Steel	<i>Second Chance</i>	AmE
J.K. Rowling	<i>Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban</i>	BrE
Jonathan Franzen	<i>The Corrections</i> <sup>1</sup>	AmE

The data for the analysis were gained from the electronic corpus of the project of the Czech National Corpus and corpora of other languages, called *InterCorp*. This electronic corpus provides texts for academic and non-commercial purposes. In order to gain 150 examples of question tags, eleven novels had to be excerpted. Six of them were written by American authors, three by British authors and two by

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<sup>1</sup> *The Corrections* contained 15 question tags, but we have used only the first three in order to have 150 examples.

Canadian authors (see Table 1). The list of all the excerpted examples can be found in the Appendix. As the sources for the excerpt were written texts and it is not possible to capture all the nuances of speech by writing, we have also included in the analysis several instances on the border between question tags and elliptical questions.

## **3.2 Method**

### **3.2.1 The Czech National Corpus and the Project Intercorp**

The Institute of the Czech National Corpus at Charles University, Faculty of Arts, is in charge of building the Czech National Corpus (CNC), a monolingual electronic corpus of mainly written Czech.

As is explained on the website of the Czech National Corpus, “the development of the parallel corpora Intercorp is part of the research project The Czech National Corpus and Corpora of Other Languages, approved for 2005-2011 (project no. 0021620823). The goal of the project is to build up parallel synchronous corpora for most of the languages taught at the Faculty of Arts.” (<http://www.korpus.cz/intercorp/?req=doc:uvod>)

These parallel corpora “aim to serve as a source of data for theoretical studies, lexicography, student research and particularly foreign language learning, computer applications, translators and for the general public.” (<http://www.korpus.cz/intercorp/?req=doc:uvod>)

### **3.2.2 ParaConc**

ParaConc is a concordance software for multilingual parallel corpora. Parallel concordance software in general “provides a general purpose tool that permits a wide range of investigations of translated texts, from the analysis of bilingual terminology and phraseology to the study of alternative translations of a single text.” (<http://www.athel.com/paraweb.pdf>) Such software can be used with any language combination. ParaConc is a Windows concordancer, “focussing on alignment of parallel (translated) texts, general search procedures, identification of translation equivalents, and the furnishing of basic frequency information.” (<http://www.athel.com/paraweb.pdf>) On its official website, ParaConc is characterized as “a bilingual or multilingual concordancer that can be used in contrastive analyses,

language learning, and translation studies/training. ParaConc is well-known and is being used at a variety of institutions around the world.” (<http://paraconc.com/>)

### 3.2.3 Excerption of the Examples

For the first part of the excerption, i.e. the excerption of the sentences containing question tags, the electronic versions of the novels were used. As the amount of text to be excerpted was not too large and the format in MS Word documents made it possible, the simple function of “search” (Ctrl + F) was used. As it would be too complicated to search for individual verb forms, we searched for question marks and exclamation marks. To make sure that no potential non-utterance-final tag is missed, it was necessary to always read the whole sentence ending with question mark or exclamation mark. There were several non-utterance-final tags where only the name of the addressee followed, but there were three genuinely non-utterance-final tags:

- (1) ‘Son,’ said Cadfael, ‘you know, **do you not**, what will be said?’ [PE, 42]
- (2) ‘It would have been better, **would it not**, if you had spoken earlier, and spared him the journey that was his death?’ [PE, 43]
- (3) “[...] I told you, **didn't I**, they built that *enormous* house out in Paradise Valley—Al, didn't you count eight bedrooms?” [FJ, 149]

A limit was set of not more than 25 examples from one novel so that the particular style of the translator did not influence the overall picture of Czech translation equivalents of question tags. The novels usually contained fewer tags than 25, except *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* by J.K. Rowling, *The Partner* by John Grisham and *A Widow for One Year* by John Irving, see Table 2. When a sufficient number of English examples was gathered, their Czech equivalents were searched for in ParaConc one by one.

**Table 2: Excerption of Examples**

	$\Sigma$	%	Frequency per 1,000 words
<i>Life Before Man</i>	10	6.67	0.10
<i>The Partner</i>	25	16.67	0.24
<i>A Widow for One Year</i>	25	16.67	0.39
<i>An Artist of the Floating World</i>	16	10.67	0.24
<i>The English Patient</i>	8	5.33	0.10
<i>Choke</i>	14	9.33	0.20
<i>The Holy Thief</i>	6	4	0.07
<i>The Human Stain</i>	14	9.33	0.10
<i>Second Chance</i>	4	2.67	0.06
<i>Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban</i>	25	16.67	1.09
<i>The Corrections</i>	3	2	0.08
<b>Total/Mean</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.24</b>

**Table 3: Frequency of Question Tags of Opposite Polarity**

	Frequency per 1,000 words
American authors	0.19
British authors	0.27
Canadian authors	0.10

The overall frequency of question tags of the opposite polarity in the excerpted texts was higher in works by British authors than in those by American authors. As was mentioned in the theoretical part of this thesis, question tags in general are much more frequent in British English. However, our results may not be realistic, as the excerpted texts were not obtained from a spoken corpus, but from fiction, which means that there are not only dialogues but also and narration and description. To make the analysis more precise we would have to count only the number of words in the dialogues. It is also difficult to compare the individual novels without knowing the exact proportion of dialogues in each of the novels. The high frequency of question tags in *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, which is caused by a very high percentage of dialogues in this novel, also has a significant effect on the overall frequency of question tags in the British texts.

## 4. Analysis

### 4.1 Results of the Excerption

As can be seen in Table 4, the excerpted examples correspond to the general characteristics of question tags. Out of 150 instances there are 97 sentences (65%) containing a positive anchor and a negative tag and 53 sentences (35%) with a negative anchor and a positive tag:

**Table 4: Polarity Types**

Anchor	Tag	$\Sigma$	%
Positive	Negative	97	65
Negative	Positive	53	35
Total		150	100

The anchors are mostly declarative clauses (146 out of 150, i.e. 97%) and there are also several elliptical anchors (4 out of 150, i.e. 3%), all of them declarative, which confirms the general observation that question tags are mostly appended to declaratives. All English question tags of the opposite polarity found in the excerpted texts are listed in Table 5. There are 73 different question tags. The most frequent tag is *don't you?* (12.67%), the second most frequent tags are *do you?* (6%) and *isn't it?* (6%). The most frequent pronoun is *you* (40.67%) and the most frequent verb is *do* (44.67%). See Table 6 and 7. Combinations of verbs and pronouns are displayed in Table 8.

**Table 5: Overview of Question Tags**

<b>Tag</b>	<b><math>\Sigma</math></b>	<b>%</b>
don't you	19	12.67
do you	9	6
isn't it	9	6
did you	4	2.67
wouldn't you	4	2.67
isn't she	4	2.67
don't I	4	2.67
are you	4	2.67
isn't he	3	2
will you	3	2
wasn't it	3	2
didn't you	3	2
didn't he	3	2
can we	3	2
doesn't it	3	2
can they	2	1.33
wasn't he	2	1.33
is she	2	1.33
dincha	2	1.33
aren't you	2	1.33
can he	2	1.33
are they	2	1.33
inee	2	1.33
doesn't he	2	1.33
does it	2	1.33
is it not	2	1.33
do we	2	1.33
are you	2	1.33
won't we	2	1.33
can't he	1	0.67
does he	1	0.67
didn't she	1	0.67
did it	1	0.67
wouldn't he	1	0.67
does she	1	0.67
would you	1	0.67
don't we	1	0.67

is there	1	0.67
do you not	1	0.67
will they not	1	0.67
won't they	1	0.67
can you	1	0.67
would he	1	0.67
was I	1	0.67
can't you	1	0.67
have you	1	0.67
wasn't she	1	0.67
weren't you	1	0.67
is he	1	0.67
haven't they	1	0.67
didn't we	1	0.67
will he	1	0.67
hadn't we	1	0.67
dinnit	1	0.67
wasn't they	1	0.67
din' they	1	0.67
as there	1	0.67
di'n't we	1	0.67
did we	1	0.67
would it not	1	0.67
could it	1	0.67
ain't you	1	0.67
couldn't we	1	0.67
won't I	1	0.67
won't you	1	0.67
do they	1	0.67
isn't there	1	0.67
haven't I	1	0.67
didn't they	1	0.67
was it	1	0.67
didn't I	1	0.67
weren't they	1	0.67
haven't you	1	0.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

Table 6: Occurrence of Verbs

Verb	$\Sigma$	%	Rank
BE	48	32	2
CAN	12	8	3
DO	67	44.67	1
HAVE	5	3.33	6
WILL	10	6.67	4
WOULD	8	5.33	5
Total	150	100	

Table 7: Occurrence of Pronouns

Pronoun/There	$\Sigma$	%	Rank
I	8	5.33	7
YOU	61	40.67	1
HE	19	12.67	3
SHE	9	6	6
IT	25	16.67	2
WE	13	8.67	4
THEY	12	8	5
THERE	3	2	8
Total	150	100	

Table 8: Verb-Pronoun Combinations

	I		YOU		HE		SHE		IT		WE		THEY		THERE			
	$\Sigma$	%	$\Sigma$	%	$\Sigma$	%	$\Sigma$	%	$\Sigma$	%	$\Sigma$	%	$\Sigma$	%	$\Sigma$	%	$\Sigma$	%
DO	5	7.46	38	56.72	6	8.95	2	2.99	7	10.45	6	8.95	3	4.48	0	0	67	100
BE	1	2.08	10	20.83	7	14.58	7	14.58	16	33.33	0	0	4	8.33	3	6.25	48	100
CAN	0	0	2	16.67	3	25	0	0	1	8.33	4	33.33	2	16.67	0	0	12	100
WILL	1	10	4	40	1	10	0	0	0	0	2	20	2	20	0	0	10	100
WOULD	0	0	5	62.5	2	25	0	0	1	12.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	100
HAVE	1	20	2	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	20	1	20	0	0	5	100
Total	8		61		19		9		25		13		12		3		150	

The most frequent combination *do + you* was used mostly in confirmatory question tags (26 out of 38 occurrences). The combination *be + it* occurred 16 times in total and seven times in attitudinal question tags. The combination *would + you* was used only in confirmatory tags.

## 4.2 Categorization

The examples were sorted out into pragmatic categories modelled on Tottie and Hoffmann's classification. See the distribution of the categories in Table 9.

There are two macro categories, **epistemic modal** (48%) and **affective** (52%). The **epistemic modal** macro category, expressing genuine speaker's uncertainty, is divided into **informational** and **confirmatory** category. The **affective** macro category consists of five subcategories: **facilitating**,

**attitudinal, softening, peremptory** and **aggressive**. The three most frequent categories are the confirmatory, facilitating and attitudinal categories. Ninety-two percent of the excerpted question tags belong to these three categories. The least frequent is the aggressive category with only one example. No example was found that could be placed into the softening category.

**Table 9: Pragmatic Categories**

Macro category	Category	$\Sigma$	%	Rank
Epistemic modal	Informational	3	2	5
	Confirmatory	69	46	1
Affective	Facilitating	31	20.67	3
	Attitudinal	38	25.33	2
	Softening	0	0	-
	Peremptory	5	3.33	4
	Aggressive	1	0.67	7
	Other	3	2	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>	

**Informational category** is the second least frequent category (2%). When the speaker uses an informational question tag, he or she is asking for information and does not know whether the answer will be positive or negative:

(4) “Your dad doesn't know why Fudge let me off, does he?” [RJK, 76]

Although the main clause is negative in the instance [4], the speaker (Harry Potter) then adds the question tag of opposite polarity and hopes that his friend's father will actually know the answer.

**Confirmatory category** (46%) is the most frequent. When the speaker has a certain opinion and wants the addressee to confirm it or to express his or her agreement, the speaker uses a confirmatory question tag:

(5) “You can drive, can't you?” [IJ, 126]

(6) “Surely he wouldn't keep the tapes for four years, would he?” [GJ, 103]



In the instance [5] the speaker is asking for confirmation, in the instance [6] the speaker is asking for the addressee's agreement.

There are several examples when the speaker is actually sure about the truth, but still wants to hear the confirmation from the addressee. These do not belong to the epistemic modal category, but to the affective, facilitating category.

**Affective** categories are, as can be inferred from the word "affective", connected with emotions and attitudes:

**Facilitating category** (20.67%) is the third most frequent. Facilitating question tags are used in the situation when the speaker is sure of the truth, but wants to make the addressee participate in the interaction. In the texts excerpted, there were found two or three types of tags belonging to this category. The first type is a facilitating proper type intended to make the addressee participate in the interaction, which can be used for example to open a dialogue:

(7) "You're living with Nate Schoenhof, aren't you?" she says. [AM, 8]

The second type was already mentioned above. The speaker is sure about the truth but still wants to hear the confirmation from the addressee:

(8) 'We can't have the women ruling over us, can we?' [IK, 31]

Here, politeness does not play any role. The speaker only wants the addressee to say aloud what he or she (the speaker) knows the addressee thinks.

The third type could be labelled challenging (this is a term from Holmes's classification and seems appropriate for this type of tag):

(9) 'You don't expect her to ring you up for a rendezvous, do you?' [IJ, 145]

This type of tag can also be used to open a dialogue or to make the addressee participate but not out of politeness. It is used to provoke the addressee to a response.

The second affective category is called **attitudinal**. With its 25.33% it is the second most frequent category. The speaker uses a question tag, but is not waiting for an answer. The question tag is used to

underline his or her opinion. The attitudinal question tag often has a function similar to that of a stance adverbial:

- (10) 'It would have been better, would it not, if you had spoken earlier, and spared him the journey that was his death?' [PE, 43]

In the instance [10] the question tag could be replaced for example by the adverb *definitely*.

Several instances were found belonging to the **peremptory** category (3.33%). The peremptory tags are appended to clauses containing a generally known or obvious truth with which it is impossible to disagree. The aim of the speaker is to close off conversation, as can be seen in the following example:

- (11) "Could you keep the children out of it?" he says.

"Why?" Martha says. "They were in it, weren't they?" She turns from him and walks down the hall into her living room. [AM, 1]

There is only one instance which belongs to the **aggressive** category:

- (12) "Because it isn't my business to come to you. I don't come to a man your age—"

"No, you don't, **do you?** Instead, whatever you're told about a man my age, however ludicrous, however malicious and absurd, you believe." [RP, 51]

Although this case does not correspond to the characteristics which says that the tag "follows a statement that is by no means obvious and that the addressee cannot be reasonably expected to know" (Tottie and Hoffmann 2006, 299), the tag still functions here as an insult and therefore can be placed into this category.

As has already been mentioned, no example of the softening tag was found in the texts excerpted. On the other hand there were three tags that did not fit to any of the categories defined by Tottie and Hoffman. Two of them, instances [12] and [23] are in fact confirmatory tags but the function of the whole sentence is different:

- (13) "You're not going already, are you?" [PC, 12]

- (14) "You're not going to let it hurt me, are you?" [PC, 23]

The speakers do not want the addressees to do something. They could have used imperative sentences:

(13) "Don't go yet!"

(14) "Don't let it hurt me!"

But that would be too direct. By using a declarative sentence with a question tag, the speaker leaves the decision up to the addressee.

The instance [15] could be a confirmatory or facilitating tag, but as can be seen from the context, it is not used to elicit response from the addressee. The speaker uses it to take her turn in the discussion:

(15) "It's this sweetshop," said Ron, a dreamy look coming over his face, "where they've got everything... Pepper Imps -- they make you smoke at the mouth -- and great fat Chocoballs full of strawberry mousse and clotted cream, and really excellent sugar quills, which you can suck in class and just look like you're thinking what to write next --"  
"But Hogsmeade's a very interesting place, **isn't it?**" Hermione pressed on eagerly. "In Sites of Historical Sorcery it says the inn was the headquarters for the 1612 goblin rebellion, and the Shrieking Shades supposed to be the most severely haunted building in Britain --" [RJK, 84]

"The multifunctionality of tags is a problem for any classification." (Tottie and Hoffman 2006, 299) There are some instances with two pragmatic functions. These were classified into categories with regard to their primary function:

(16) '[...] Yeah...' Ted said, 'that makes a lot of sense, doesn't it?' [IJ, 143]

The instance [16] is both attitudinal and facilitating, but it was put into the facilitating category, as it is response eliciting. We have already mentioned the tags used when the speaker is sure about the truth but still wants to hear the confirmation from the addressee, as for example in the instance [17]:

(17) 'We can't have the women ruling over us, can we?' [IK, 31]

(18) "[...]Big trouble it caused, dinnit, Ern?" [RJK, 68]

In the instance [18] the speaker wants the addressee to confirm his statement for a third participant in the discourse. These tags belong to the facilitating category, but they have a lot in common with the confirmatory tags.

In other cases it can be for example very difficult to decide if the tag is informational or confirmatory, or confirmatory or facilitating, especially when there is no marking of intonation which would be helpful in the latter case. Thus, as Tottie and Hoffman said, the only help is the “linguistic context” (Tottie and Hoffman 2006, 300). In cases of doubt whether the tag is informational or confirmatory it was put into the confirmatory category because the frequency of informational tags in general is much lower than that of confirmatory tags.

### 4.3 Distribution of Pragmatic Categories Based on Varieties of English

As can be seen in Table 10, confirmatory category is the most frequent in all three variants of English. The attitudinal category is the second most frequent in American (24.71%) and Canadian English (22.22%), in British English it is the facilitating category with 29.79%.

**Table 10: Distribution of Pragmatic Types of Question Tags Based on Language Variant**

	<b>American authors</b>		<b>British authors</b>		<b>Canadian authors</b>	
<b>Tag type</b>	$\Sigma$	%	$\Sigma$	%	$\Sigma$	%
Confirmatory	41	48.24	18	38.30	10	55.56
Attitudinal	21	24.71	13	27.66	4	22.22
Facilitating	14	16.47	14	29.79	3	16.67
Informational	2	2.35	1	2.13	0	0
Aggressive	1	1.18	0	0	0	0
Peremptory	4	4.71	0	0	1	5.56
Other	2	2.35	1	2.13	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100</b>

Tottie and Hoffman (2006, 301) underline the higher frequency of facilitating question tags in American English, but our excerption does not confirm their findings. Out of 31 facilitating question tags, there are 14 instances from novels by American authors, 14 instances from novels by British authors and three instances from a novel by Margaret Atwood who is Canadian. The frequency of the occurrence of

facilitating tags in novels written by British authors is higher than in novels written by American authors (see Table 11).

**Table 11: Frequency of Facilitating Tags**

Language Variant	Frequency per 1,000 words
AmE	0.031
BrE	0.081
CanE	0.017

As has already been mentioned, the least frequent is the aggressive category. We have found only one example. The results of Tottie and Hoffman's (2006, 301) analysis show that the aggressive tags occur only in British English (they found four instances, i.e. 1% of all British tags), but our example comes from the novel *The Human Stain* by an American author, Philip Roth. According to Tottie and Hoffman's results, the proportion of peremptory tags is the same in British as in American English (1%). We have found four peremptory tags in American (4.71%) and one in Canadian English (5.56%).

#### 4.4 Czech Translation Equivalents of the Excerpted Question Tags

As can be seen in Table 12, 44 Czech equivalents of 73 different English question tags were found in the excerpted texts. The most frequent translations are the eliciting interjections *že ne* (11.33%), *že* (11.33%), *vid'* (10%) *ne* (8%) and *že jo* (*žejo*)<sup>2</sup> (8%). It is interesting that one English question tag is quite often translated into Czech by two different linguistic means in combination. Out of 44 translation counterparts, 15 are combinations of two linguistic means. Most often it is a combination of a particle with an eliciting interjection as in the following example:

(19) 'It's what boys your age do, isn't it? [...]' [IJ, 130]

„Tohle **přeci** chlápci tvého věku dělají, **ne**? [...]"

<sup>2</sup> Two translators have used the expression *žejo* as one word in colloquial Czech. Five instances out of twelve were *žejo* and seven were *že jo*.

**Table 12: Overall Means of Translation into Czech 1 (44 occurrences)**

	Translation	Σ	%
1	že ne?	17	11.33
2	že?	17	11.33
3	vid'?	16	10
4	ne?	12	8
5	že jo/žejo?	12	8
6	přece + ne?	8	5.33
7	přece	6	4
8	že ano?	5	3.33
9	vid'te?	4	2.67
10	že je to tak?	4	2.67
11	snad	3	2
12	nemyslíš/nemyslíte?	3	2
13	negative question instead of positive	3	2
14	vždyť	3	2
15	co?	3	2
16	přece/přeci + vid'?	2	1.33
17	Ale + že ne?	2	1.33
18	co myslíš?	2	1.33
19	nemám pravdu?	2	1.33
20	no tag	2	1.33
21	(A)nebo ne?	2	1.33
22	hm?	1	0.67
23	přece + nebo snad ne?	1	0.67
24	přece + žejo?	1	0.67
25	přece + že ano?	1	0.67
26	přece + že ne?	1	0.67
27	vid', že ne?	1	0.67
28	Snad přece + to snad ne?	1	0.67
29	Přece snad	1	0.67
30	ale + že?	1	0.67
31	Že + vid'?	1	0.67
32	ale + nemyslíš?	1	0.67
33	nezdá se vám?	1	0.67
34	Copak + negative question instead of positive	1	0.67
35	No + negative question instead of positive	1	0.67
36	whole sentence left out	1	0.67
37	No jasně, samozřejmě!	1	0.67
38	rozumíš?	1	0.67
39	Dyť + hele	1	0.67
40	Doufám, že	1	0.67
41	Můžou?	1	0.67
42	nebo jste?	1	0.67
43	Přece + že je to tak?	1	0.67
44	Nebylo to tak?	1	0.67
	<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100</b>

**Table 13: Means of Translation into Czech 2**

	Translation	$\Sigma$	%
1	přece/přeci	24	13.48
2	ne?	21	11.80
3	že ne?	21	11.80
4	vid'?	20	11.24
5	že?	17	9.55
6	že jo?	7	3.93
7	že ano?	6	3.37
8	žejo?	6	3.37
9	že je to tak?	5	2.80
10	snad	5	2.80
11	negative question instead of positive	5	2.80
12	ale	4	2.25
13	vid'te?	4	2.25
14	vždyť	3	1.69
15	nemyslíš?	3	1.69
16	no tag	2	1.12
17	nemám pravdu?	2	1.12
18	co myslíš?	2	1.12
19	co?	2	1.12
20	whole sentence left out	1	0.56
21	to snad ne	1	0.56
22	rozumíš?	1	0.56
23	No jasně, samozřejmě!	1	0.56
24	No	1	0.56
25	nezdá se vám?	1	0.56
26	nemyslíte?	1	0.56
27	Nebylo to tak?	1	0.56
28	nebo snad ne?	1	0.56
29	nebo ne?	1	0.56
30	nebo jste?	1	0.56
31	Můžou?	1	0.56
32	initial Že	1	0.56
33	hm?	1	0.56
34	hele	1	0.56
35	Dyť	1	0.56
36	Doufám, že	1	0.56
37	Copak	1	0.56
38	Anebo ne?	1	0.56
	<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>100</b>

Or it is a combination of a particle with a Czech equivalent of the English invariant tag:

(20) 'You were planning to get a divorce, anyway, weren't you?' [IJ, 142]

„**Přece** jste plánoval, že se stejně rozvedete, **že je to tak?**“

It can also be a combination of a particle and a negative sentence instead of positive:

(21) "He's gorgeous, isn't he?" [RJK, 78]

„**No** není úžasný?“

The particle *přece* in combination with the interjection *ne* is the sixth most frequent translation with its eight occurrences, but if we counted all occurrences, either independent or in combination with the various interjections (*vid', žejo, že ano, že ne* etc.), *přece* would be the most frequent translation with 24 occurrences, compare Table 12 and 13. As *přece* underlines the correctness of the speaker's own statement it is used both in translations of confirmatory and attitudinal question tags. It is also used three times in the facilitating category.

In one case the sentence containing the question tag was completely left out in the translation:

(22) 'Oh, I don't mean to assume that you were thinking about me. Goodness, that's rather conceited of me, **isn't it?** Maybe it was just my clothes. [...]' [IJ, 131]

„Víš, netroufnu si myslet, že jsi doopravdy myslel na mě. Třeba to byly jenom moje šaty. [...]"

There is no objective reason why the sentence was omitted in the translation. It could have been translated for example with use of the particle *ale* which would underline the negative self-evaluation in the main clause: *Bože, jsem to ale ješitná.*

Although, concerning the limited repertoire of literal translation equivalents, forty-four is not such a low number, there could have been even more Czech translations. However, the translators tend to translate all question tags as confirmatory or facilitating, i.e. using the interjections *že*, *vid'* or *co*. When they do not want to repeat themselves, they use the Czech equivalents of English invariant tags, as *nemyslíš/nemyslíte* (*don't you think*), *že je to tak* (*isn't that so*), *nemám pravdu* (*am I right*) etc. There are more possibilities of translating the informational, attitudinal and peremptory question tags. We would like to suggest some alternatives for each of these categories.

The informational tags could be translated as questions:



(23) “He can come out, can’t he? He can come just for a minute.” [RP, 56]

„Může ven z klece, že ano. Může na minutku ven.“

Alternative translation for instance [23] could be: „*Může ven z klece? Jenom na minutku.*” Thus the informational feature of the question tag would be underlined by the Czech translation.

Another informational tag, example [24], was translated by means of the conditional, a modal particle *asi* and an eliciting interjection *že*. The conditional together with the modal particle express the uncertainty of the speaker very well. The interjection *že* could have been left out, it is redundant and not only in this case.

(24) “Your dad doesn't know why Fudge let me off, does he?” [RJK, 76]

„Tvůj tat'ka by asi nevěděl, proč mě vlastně Popletal nepotrestal, že?”

The attitudinal tags can be translated by use of adverbials, particles or interjections. There are several good translations:

(25) “It hardly matters now, does it?” [IK, 26]

„Teď už na tom přece nesejde.”

(26) “Don't listen properly, do they? [...]” [RJK, 66]

„Dyt' neuměj kloudně poslouchat, hele. [...]”

The particles *přece* and *dyt'* (*vždyt'*) in instances [25] and [26] respectively express well the stressing of the speaker's opinion. In the instance [26] it is underlined even more by the interjection *hele* which is used in Czech to alert somebody to something.

(27) “It doesn't matter what side he was on, does it?” [OM, 116]

„Přece snad na tom nezáleží, na čí byl straně.”

In the instance [27] it was not necessary to use two particles, *přece* and *snad*, as they have the same function in the negative sentence. To use only one of them would be enough to express the supposed correctness of the speaker's statement. Another good translation is for example the instance [28]:

(28) “[...] I told you, didn't I, they built that enormous house out in Paradise Valley—Al, didn't you count eight bedrooms?” [FJ, 149]

„[...] A říkala jsem ti přece, že si postavili obrovský dům nahoře v Paradise Valley - Ale, žes tam napočítal osm ložnic, vid’?”

Here the interjection *přece* is used to underline the certainty of the speaker that she has already spoken about the contents of the following clause. Unfortunately, most translation do not reflect the pragmatic function of the attitudinal question tags at all:

(29) “Ready for Christmas?” [...]

“Noone ever is, are they?” [AM, 4]

„Už máte doma na Vánoce všechno nachystáno?” [...]

„To vlastně nikdo, ne?”

Alternative translation: „*To nemá snad nikdo.*” The interjection *ne* with a question mark is eliciting an answer but that is not the intention of the author who used the question tag. It is there only to underline the statement in the preceding clause, or to as Coates puts it, to “confirm the shared world” (Tottie and Hoffman 2006, 300).

Another example of a translation that completely changes the meaning of the sentence is instance [30]:

(30) “This is the path leading down from Nishiyama hill, is it not? Certainly you've caught the likeness very well. That's just how it looks coming down the hill. Very skilful.” [IK, 32]

„Tohle je cesta z kopce Nišijama? [...]“

Alternative translation: „*Tohle je určitě cesta z kopce Nišijama.*” Here, the father is commenting on some pictures by his son. He is sure about what is in the picture and wants to stress it and thus praise his son for being able to capture reality so well, not to ask him to confirm that what he thinks is in the picture is really there.

(31) ‘It would have been better, would it not, if you had spoken earlier, and spared him the journey that was his death?’ [PE, 43]

„Nebývalo by lepší, kdybys byl promluvil dřív a ušetřil mu cestu, která pro něho znamenala smrt?”

Alternative translation: „*Bývalo by rozhodně lepší, kdybys byl promluvil dřív a ušetřil mu cestu, která pro něj znamenala smrt.*“ Again, the speaker is not asking the addressee for confirmation. He wants to underline his opinion.

(32) "Then," Delphine said lightly, "there's the problem, isn't it?" [RP, 52]

„Takže,“ prohlásila Delphine veselým tónem, „tady máme problém, že?“

Alternative translation: „*Takže,“ prohlásila Delphine veselým tónem, „v tom je ten problém!*“ This is the moment when Delphine suddenly realized where the problem is. She does not need confirmation from the addressee.

There are probably not enough examples of peremptory tags for setting of some general rules for their translation. The individual instances will be commented on separately.

In the instance [33] two lovers are discussing their relationship. She reproaches him for not having enough time for her. She says that his wife always used the children to keep him home.

(33) "Could you keep the children out of it?" he says.

"Why?" Martha says. "They were in it, **weren't they?**" She turns from him and walks down the hall into her living room. [AM, 1]

„Mohla bys z toho děti vynechat?“ Žádá ji.

„A proč?“ odsekne Martha. „Vždyť o ně vždycky šlo.“ Obrátí se od něj a zamíří chodbou do obývacího pokoje.

Alternative translation: „*Jenže tady šlo hlavně o ně.*“ They both know that the children are part of the problem. She wants to stress this fact and thus to finish the debate.

The instance [34] is similar. The narrator is talking to a man who probably killed his friend. The man is sitting alone in the middle of a frozen lake, fishing. The narrator is asking him many questions and they are discussing the past, the Vietnam War and the post-traumatic stress disorder. The narrator asks:

(34) "Still have the PTSD?"

"Well, I still tend to isolate, *don't I?* What do you think I'm doin' out here?" [RP, 58]

„Ještě pořád máte PTSP?“

„No, ještě pořád mám sklon vyhejbat se lidem, že? Co myslíte, že tady venku dělám?“

Alternative translation: „*Vidíte, že se lidem pořád radši vyhejbám, ne?*“ He considers it the influence of the war obvious and does not want to talk about it any more.

The question tag used in the instance [35] is sarcastic. The first speaker uses it to stop the second speaker from persuading him that he is right. Then he adds two more explanatory sentences.

(35) "Paper said she's already been sued by the life insurance company."

"We got lawyers too."

"Yeah, but you ain't here 'cause you got lawyers, Lance, **are you?** You're here 'cause you need help. Lawyers can't do what she needs." [GJ, 89]

„Noviny tvrděj, že na ni pojišťovna podala žalobu.“

„Taky máme právníky.“

„Ano, ale ty tady nejsi kvůli právníkům, Lanci, že ne? Jsi tady, protože potřebuješ pomoc. Právníci neudělaj to, co ona potřebuje.“

Here the literal translation is corresponding to the tone of the discourse. The alternative could be for example „*Ano, ale kvůli právníkům tu snad nejsi.*“, but it can be left as it is.

In the instance [36] the question tag is used to close off the discussion:

(36) "How does Stephano know about you?"

"Patrick told them."

"Patrick?"

"Yes. You've seen the burns, **haven't you?**" [GJ, 99]

„Jak se o vás Stephano dozvěděl?“

„Řekl mu o mně Patrick.“

„Patrick?“

„Ano. Viděl jste přece ty rány na jeho těle, ne?“

The man called Patrick mentioned in the conversation was tortured in order to disclose some information. The second speaker mentions the burns on his body and does not feel the need to explain it any further. Here the question tag could have been translated by use of the particle *snad*, corresponding to the peremptory tone of the discourse: „*Ty rány na jeho těle jste snad viděl.*“

The last example belonging to the peremptory category is used again to close off the discussion:

(37) "I'm not going to lose him," she said confidently. "We're married."

"Since when did that give anyone a guarantee?"

"Well, it's supposed to," she said, looking stubborn. "That's what the vows are supposed to mean, **isn't it?**" [SD, 122]

„Neztratím ho,“ prohlásila Fiona rozhodně. „Jsme manželé.“

„Odkdy manželství někomu poskytuje nějaké záruky?“

„To se přece předpokládá,“ odsekla se vzdorovitým výrazem. „Proto se skládají sliby, nebo ne?“

In this case it would be also better to use the particle *snad* than the expression *nebo ne* which not only makes it possible for the addressee to reply, but it even challenges them to reply negatively. The alternative translation could be for example: *Od toho snad sliby jsou.*

Although there were mentioned mostly negative examples, some of the translators were inventive even when translating confirmatory question tags. We would like to comment on several interesting translations that differ from the rest. All of the following translations contain declarative questions. The instances [38] and [39], both with a negative anchor and a positive tag, are translated by means of a negative declarative question containing the particle *snad*. The particle *snad* in a negative question has the same function as *přece* in a positive sentence, i.e. expressing the supposed correctness of the statement of the speaker. When it is used in a negative question it is eliciting the confirmation of the negative statement from the addressee:

(38) 'There's no complaint of my men down there, is there?' [PE, 41]

„Nikdo si tam snad na mé lidi nestěžoval?“

(39) "Sh -- she's not coming here, is she?" [RJK, 61]

„Sn-snad k nám nejede na návštěvu?“

In the instance [40] (positive anchor and negative tag) the declarative question contains the main clause *Doufám* (I hope). The verb *doufat* (to hope) expresses the presumption that is to be confirmed in the answer to the question:

(40) “[...] You are all packed, aren't you?” [RJK, 80]

„[...] Doufám, že už jste všichni sbalení?“

In the instance [41] the particle *copak* expressing surprise is used in combination with the negative declarative question as a translation of a positive anchor.

(41) “You need another hand to cut it, don't you?” [OM, 112]

„Copak nepotřebujete další ruku, abyste ho přerušil?“

**Table 14: Czech Translation Equivalents of Attitudinal Question Tags**

Translation	Σ	%
ne?	7	18.42
že?	6	15.79
P/přece/i + ne?	4	10.53
no tag	2	5.26
přece	2	5.26
V/vždyť	2	5.26
ale + že?	1	2.63
Dyť + hele	1	2.63
hm?	1	2.63
nebo jste?	1	2.63
negative question instead of positive	1	2.63
nemyslíš?	1	2.63
nezdá se vám?	1	2.63
přece + že ne?	1	2.63
Přece snad	1	2.63
rozumíš?	1	2.63
vid'?	1	2.63
vid'te?	1	2.63
whole sentence left out	1	2.63
Že + vid'?	1	2.63
že jo?	1	2.63
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100</b>

Although it has already been mentioned that the Czech translation equivalents do not correspond to the pragmatic categories, because most of the question tags are translated as response-eliciting, if we have a closer look at the tables 14, 15 and 16, it is possible to trace at least some features characteristic for the individual pragmatic categories.

**Table 15: Czech Translation Equivalents of Confirmatory Question Tags**

Translation	$\Sigma$	%
vid'?	12	17.39
že ne?	12	17.39
že jo?	5	7.25
že?	4	5.80
vid'te?	3	4.35
že ano?	3	4.35
S/snad + ?	3	4.35
přece + ne?	3	4.35
P/přece + ?	2	2.90
Ž/že je to tak?	2	2.90
Ale + že ne?	1	1.45
Anebo ne?	1	1.45
co?	1	1.45
co myslíš?	1	1.45
Copak + negative question instead of positive	1	1.45
Doufám, že	1	1.45
Můžou?	1	1.45
ne?	1	1.45
Nebylo to tak?	1	1.45
negative question instead of positive	1	1.45
nemám pravdu?	1	1.45
nemyslíte?	1	1.45
No + negative question instead of positive	1	1.45
Přece	1	1.45
přece + nebo snad ne?	1	1.45
přece + že ano?	1	1.45
Přece + že je to tak?	1	1.45
přece + žejo?	1	1.45
přeci + vid'?	1	1.45
Snad přece, to snad ne?	1	1.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>100</b>

The translation equivalents of attitudinal tags are most often *ne* (18.42%) and *že* (15.79%). These do not correspond to the function of attitudinal tags. The third most frequent translation equivalent is *přece* in combination with *ne?* (10.53%). The use of *přece* underlines the opinion of the speaker, but the eliciting

interjection *ne?* is redundant here. Then there are two instances when the tag was not translated, two cases with *přece* and two examples with *vždyť*. To these we can add one example with *dyť + hele*, one with *přece snad* and one completely omitted sentence. None of these translations is response-eliciting. It is only nine instances out of 38 attitudinal question tags, but it indicates at least some tendency to capture the pragmatic function of attitudinal question tags.

Confirmatory question tags are most often translated by eliciting interjections *vid'* and *že ne* (both 17.39%), followed by *že jo*, *že* and *vidě*. There are also nine translations containing the particle *přece*, which could indicate the speaker's certainty about the truth of their opinion which the addressee is supposed to confirm.

The five most frequent translation of facilitating question tags are very similar to the most frequent translation of confirmatory tags. Facilitating: *že jo* (19.35%), *ne* (12.9%), *vid'*, *že* and *že ne* (all three 9.68%). Confirmatory: *vid'* (17.39), *že ne* (17.39), *že jo* (7.25), *že* (5.80). There are fewer occurrences of the particle *přece*, as the facilitating tags are often used out of politeness, and thus the speaker does not underline the truth of his or her own opinion.

**Table 16: Czech Translation Equivalents of Facilitating Question Tags**

Translation	Σ	%
že jo?	6	19.35
ne?	4	12.9
vid'?	3	9.68
že?	3	9.68
že ne?	3	9.68
Že je to tak?	2	6.45
ale + nemyslíš?	1	3.23
co?	1	3.23
co myslíš?	1	3.23
negative question instead of positive	1	3.23
nemám pravdu?	1	3.23
nemyslíš?	1	3.23
přece	1	3.23
přece + ne?	1	3.23
přece + vid'?	1	3.23
že ano?	1	3.23
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100</b>



The remaining categories were not represented by a sufficient number of examples that would make it possible for us to draw any conclusions.

## 5. Conclusion

The aim of this thesis was to classify the question tags of the opposite polarity into pragmatic categories according to their function and to describe their Czech translation equivalents. As far as formal properties of the tag questions are concerned, the excerpted examples correspond to the situation in English described by Tottie and Hoffman in their article. 97% instances have a declarative anchor, 65% have a positive anchor and a negative tag, 35% a negative anchor and a positive tag. The most frequent tag is *don't you?*, the most frequent verb is *do* and the most frequent pronoun is *you*. The tag *don't you* occurs mostly in the confirmatory category – 13 times out of 19 occurrences (68%).

The three most frequent pragmatic categories, confirmatory, attitudinal and facilitating, represent 92% of the excerpted question tags. No example belonging to the softening category was found and, on the other hand, there are three examples that did not fit into any of the categories. We have focused on the pragmatic categories and our goal was to find out how the pragmatic functions of question tags are reflected in their Czech translation equivalents. The hypothesis was that eliciting interjections would prevail in confirmatory and facilitating categories and affective interjections and adverbials would occur most frequently in the translation of the tags belonging to the attitudinal and peremptory categories. As to the informational question tags, these would probably be translated into Czech as simple questions.

However, the hypothesis proved to be wrong. The Czech translators mostly did not realize that the question tags had more functions than just eliciting confirmation or agreement and they have not realized the potential of translating the attitudinal question tags by means of (stance) adverbials, like for example *rozhodně*, *evidentně*, *určitě*, *fakt* etc. In some cases it can be seen that they recognized some difference and used the particles *snad*, *přece* or *vždyť*. However, they often added the literal translation of the question tag, i.e. interjection *že*, *že ano*, *že ne*, *vid'*, *co* etc. That was often unnecessary and in some cases it was in fact wrong. Nevertheless, several good translations were found and when we compare translations of question tags in the individual categories, at least some tendencies can be seen. Nine out of 38 attitudinal question tags (24%) are translated differently than by eliciting interjections, so it is clear that the speaker does not expect an answer. Relatively high occurrence of the particle *přece* in translations of confirmatory tags (13%) mirrors the fact that the speaker knows that his or her statement,

which is to be confirmed by the addressee, is true. On the other hand, lower occurrence of this particle in translations of facilitating tags (10%) reflects the fact that facilitating tags are often used out of politeness.

We realize that the results of the analysis correspond to the excerpted material. As was already mentioned, it would be better if the texts for analysis were taken from spoken corpora. The number of excerpted question tags also plays an important role. It is probable, that if the number of examples was higher, the results would be more telling – there would be enough examples in each of the categories, and if not, the low number of examples could be considered relevant. Also, the classification of examples into pragmatic categories in the individual variants of English could be compared more accurately. Question tags in general are an interesting phenomenon and are still examined by linguists, so we can expect to learn more about question tags in the future. This further research could also help the Czech translators to find better equivalents for English question tags.

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## České resumé

Tato bakalářská práce se věnuje anglickým tázacím dovětkům s opačnou polaritou a jejich českým překladovým korelátům. Je rozdělena do dvou částí, teoretické a praktické. V teoretické části je tázací dovětek definován a charakterizován a jsou zde popsány způsoby klasifikace tázacích dovětků na základě jejich polarity a intonace. Dále jsou zde definovány pragmatické kategorie tázacích dovětků, popsána situace v češtině a přiblížena metodologie excerpcí příkladů a jejich českých ekvivalentů z korpusu *Intercorp*. V praktické části jsou potom excerpované dovětky na základě svých funkcí rozděleny do pragmatických kategorií a je zde hledána souvislost mezi funkcí dovětků a způsobem jejich překládání do češtiny.

Tázací dovětek je v angličtině druhem tázací věty zjišťovací, která se připojuje k jiné větě. Pokud je podmětem věty, ke které je dovětek připojen, osobní zájmeno, opakuje se toto zájmeno i v dovětku. Pokud je podmětem podstatné jméno, je v dovětku nahrazeno odpovídajícím zájmenem. V dovětku se také opakuje určité sloveso věty, ke které se dovětek připojuje. Lexikální slovesa jsou v dovětku zastoupena slovesnou proformou.

Tázací dovětek může mít stejnou polaritu jako věta, ke které je připojen, nebo polaritu opačnou. Obvyklejší je typ s opačnou polaritou. Intonace dovětku může být klesavá nebo stoupavá. Na základě polarity a intonace lze dovětky rozdělit do šesti kategorií. První čtyři typy mají opačnou polaritu. Kladnou větou se záporným dovětkem se stoupavou intonací vyjadřuje mluvčí pozitivní předpoklad a neutrální očekávání. Stoupavá intonace dovětku naznačuje očekávání potvrzení, nebo vyvrácení předpokladu mluvčího. Záporná věta s kladným dovětkem se stoupavou intonací vyjadřuje negativní předpoklad a neutrální očekávání. Kladná věta se záporným dovětkem s klesavou intonací je použita, když mluvčí očekává potvrzení svého pozitivního předpokladu. Pokud očekává potvrzení negativního předpokladu, zvolí zápornou větu s kladným dovětkem s klesavou intonací. Poslední dva typy dovětků mají stejnou polaritu jako věta, ke které se připojují, a stoupavou intonací. Častěji se vyskytuje kladná věta s kladným dovětkem. V tomto případě bývá věta, ke které se připojuje dovětek, uvozena výrazy *oh* nebo *so*, a doprovázena sarkastickým tónem. Poslední typ, tedy záporná věta se záporným dovětkem, se vyskytuje velmi zřídka. Nejčastěji se tázací dovětky připojují k oznamovacím větám, ale je možné je připojit také k větě tázací, rozkazovací i zvolací.

Angličtina zná také takzvané invariantní dovětky, tj. výrazy, jejichž tvar nezávisí na tvaru věty, ke které se připojují. Jejich intonace je stoupavá. Zvláštní případ je britské *innit?*, které je používáno jako invariantní dovětek, ale i jako hovorová varianta dovětku *isn't it?*. *Ain't* v kombinaci s jakýmkoli zájmenem může odkazovat jak na sloveso *be*, tak na sloveso *have* v předcházející větě.

Podle výzkumu Gunnel Tottie a Sebastiana Hoffmanna se tázací dovětky vyskytují devětkrát častěji v britské než v americké angličtině. Tottie a Hoffmann se také zaměřují na pragmatické funkce tázacích dovětek. Na základě klasifikace svých předchůdců, Janet Holmes a Johna Algea, dělí tázací dovětky do dvou kategorií, epistemické (jistotní) a afektivní. Epistemické dovětky vyjadřují nejistotu mluvčího a dále se dělí na informační a potvrzující. Informační dovětek mluvčí použije, když si není jistý, jestli bude odpověď kladná, nebo záporná. Potvrzující dovětek vyžaduje od adresáta potvrzení domněnky mluvčího. Afektivní dovětky vyjadřují různé city a postoje mluvčího. Patří mezi ně dovětky vybízející, postojové, zmírňující, peremptorní a agresivní. Vybíjecím dovětkem chce mluvčí zapojit adresáta do rozhovoru, ať už z důvodu zdvořilostního, nebo jiného. Pokud mluvčí použije postojový dovětek, neočekává od adresáta žádnou reakci, pouze zdůrazňuje svůj názor. Zmírňující dovětky jsou používány, když chce mluvčí zmírnit předcházející kritický výrok, nebo příkaz. Peremptorní dovětky jsou připojovány k větám obsahujícím všeobecně známou, nebo zcela jasnou pravdu, se kterou nelze nesouhlasit, a mluvčí jimi ukončuje debatu. Agresivní dovětky jsou obvykle připojovány k výrokům, které hovoří o něčem, co není v žádném případě jasné a co adresát nemůže vědět. Jsou to dovětky urážlivé.

V češtině tázací dovětky jako takové neexistují. Podobnou funkci však mají obecně kontaktová a vybízející citoslovce. Vzhledem k různým funkcím, které tázací dovětky mohou mít, byla hypotéza taková, že budou do češtiny překládány různě, například s použitím příslovcí nebo částic.

Beletristické texty pro excerpci byly získány ze společného projektu Českého národního korpusu a korpusů dalších jazyků s názvem *Intercorp*. V jedenácti románech bylo nalezeno 150 dovětek s opačnou polaritou. Šest z těchto románů bylo psáno americkou angličtinou, tři britskou angličtinou a dva angličtinou kanadskou. Protože zdrojové texty byly k dispozici v elektronické podobě jako dokumenty programu MS Word, byly v nich anglické dovětky vyhledány ručně. Jejich české překladové ekvivalenty potom byly dohledány v programu ParaConc. Četnost dovětek s opačnou polaritou byla nejvyšší v textech psaných britskými autory (0,27 dovětku na 1000 slov).

Z celkového počtu 150 příkladů bylo 97 kladných vět se záporným dovětkem (65 %) a 53 záporných vět s kladným dovětkem (35 %). Dovětky byly z velké většiny připojovány k úplným větám oznamovacím (97 %), pouze čtyři byly připojeny k větám eliptickým (3 %). V textech se vyskytlo celkem 73 různých dovětek s opačnou polaritou. Nejčastěji to byly dovětky *don't you* (12,67 %), *do you* (6 %) a *isn't it* (6 %). Nejfrekventovanějším slovesem bylo sloveso *do* (44,67 %), nejčastějším zájmenem potom *you* (40,67 %). Z toho vyplývá i nejčastější kombinace slovesa a zájmena, tj. *do + you* (56,72 %).

Nalezené příklady byly rozděleny do pragmatických kategorií převzatých z klasifikace Tottie a Hoffmanna. Nejvíce dovětek bylo zařazeno do potvrzující kategorie (46 %), na druhém místě je kategorie postojová (25,33 %), dále vybízecí (20,67 %), peremptorní, informační a agresivní. Nebyl nalezen žádný dovětek, který by odpovídal charakteristice zmírňující kategorie. Tři dovětky naopak zůstaly nezařazeny. Potvrzující dovětky byly nejčastějším typem ve všech variantách angličtiny. V americké a kanadské angličtině byly na druhém místě dovětky postojové, v britské angličtině pak dovětky vybízecí.

Co se týká českých překladových korelátů, 73 různých anglických dovětek bylo přeloženo pomocí 44 českých ekvivalentů. Nejčastěji jsou to vybízecí citoslovce *že ne* (11,33 %), *že* (11,33 %), *vid'* (10 %) *ne* (8 %) a *že jo* (*žejo*) (8 %). Z oněch 44 ekvivalentů je 15 kombinací dvou různých výrazů, především částic s vybízecími citoslovci, popř. s výrazy odpovídajícími anglickým invariantním dovětkům. Funkce jednotlivých dovětek, a tedy ani jejich zařazení do pragmatických kategorií, nejsou v českých překladech příliš reflektovány. Dovětky jsou většinou překládány jako výzvy k odpovědi, přestože záměr mluvčího je jiný. Přesto, pokud srovnáme překlady dovětek v jednotlivých kategoriích, lze nalézt alespoň náznaky jistých tendencí. Devět z celkem 38 postojových dovětek (tj. 24 %) je přeloženo jinak než s pomocí vybízecích citoslovců, a tak je i z českého překladu patrné, že mluvčí neočekává odpověď. Poměrně vysoký výskyt částice *přece* v překladech potvrzujících dovětek (tato částice byla použita v 13 % překladů potvrzujících dovětek) může být důkazem toho, že si je mluvčí vědom pravdivosti své výpovědi, kterou chce od adresáta pouze potvrdit. Naproti tomu nižší výskyt této částice v překladech vybízecích dovětek (10 %) by mohl odrážet jejich zdvořilostní funkci. Vzhledem k malému počtu příkladů v ostatních kategoriích není možné vyvozovat další závěry.



## Appendix

### [AM]: Atwood, Margaret

1

"Could you keep the children out of it?" he says.

"Why?" Martha says. "They were in it, weren't they?" She turns from him and walks down the hall into her living room.

„Mohla bys z toho děti vynechat?“ žádá ji.

„A proč?“ odsekne Martha. „Vždyť o ně vždycky šlo.“ Obrátí se od něj a zamíří chodbou do obývacího pokoje.

2

She wants to ask: Why am I here? You didn't really invite me to lunch in this third-rate restaurant to settle the future of the nation, did you? But he's already signaling for the bill.

Chtěla by se zeptat: Proč jsem tady? Nepozval jsi mě přece do třetířadé hospody, abychom tu vyřešili budoucnost národa, ne? Ale on už gestikuluje na číšníka, že chce účet.

3

Now the voice is going to reveal something extraordinary. They've all heard about the Star of Bethlehem, haven't they? Yes.

Hlas z reproduktoru teď hodlá vyjít cosi mimořádného. Všichni tu slyšeli o hvězdě betlémské, ne? Ano.

4

"Ready for Christmas?"

[...]

"Not quite. No one ever is, are they?"

„Už máte doma na Vánoce všechno nachystáno?“

[...]

„Ne tak docela. To vlastně nikdo, ne?“

5

"We were supposed to be having these heart-to-hearts," Martha is saying, "but we never did, really, did we? [...]"

„Měly jsme si tu vylévat srdéčka,“ pokračuje Martha, „ale ve skutečnosti na to nedošlo, hm? [...]"

6

"She finally did it, didn't she? She's been working at it long enough."

„Takže se jí to konečně povedlo, že jo. Pracovala na tom hodně dlouho.“

7

"It didn't inconvenience you, did it?"

„Neobtěžovalo tě to, že ne?“

8

"You're living with Nate Schoenhof, aren't you?" she says.

„Vy žijete s Natem Schoenhofem, že?“ zeptá se.

9

Nate is unprepared for this degree of cynicism, coming from his mother. She's supposed to believe in the infinite perfectability of man; isn't she?

Nate není na tak cynické řeči připravený, obzvláště ne od své matky. Ta má přece věřit v to, že se každý může donekonečna zdokonalovat, ne?

10

Nate hadn't even seen her take it; otherwise he'd be up there pounding at the door. (Wouldn't he?)

Nate ani neviděl, jak si ho bere, jinak by jí už tloukl na dveře. (Anebo ne?)

### [PC]: Palahniuk, Chuck

11

"Fred Hastings was here. You remember Fred, don't you?"

„Byl tady Fred Hastings. Pamatuješ se přece na Freda, ne?“

12

"You're not going already, are you?"

„Nechceš ještě jít, vid', že ne?“ ujišťuje se máma.

13

"Dude, you don't mean me, do you?"  
„Vole, ale nemyslíš mě, že ne?“

14

He says, "You didn't sleep with her, did you?"  
„Nespál jsi s ní, že ne?“ zajímá se.

15

To the old woman in the chair, she says, "Paige isn't hurting you, is she?"  
Staré paní na vozíku se zeptá: „Neublížíte vám Paige, že ne?“

16

"But your mother is Catholic, isn't she?"  
„Ale tvoje matka je katolička, že ano?“

17

I say, "You don't think I'm a good-hearted person, do you?"  
„Ty si nemyslíš, že mám dobrý srdce, že ne?“

18

I say, "You don't really think I'm anything like Jesus Christ, do you?"  
„Určitě si nemyslíš, že bych byl něco na způsob Ježíše Krista, že ne?“

19

Asking the back of Leeza's scrubby hair, I say, "You'd tell me if I was getting too sweet, wouldn't you?"  
„Řekla bys mi, kdybych začal být moc ohleduplný, vid?“ ptám se Lízinych rozčuchaných vlasů na zátylku.

20

I'm ramming at a regular steady pace, asking, "You don't think I'm getting soft, do you?"  
Přirážím pravidelným, stálým rytmem a vyzvídám: „Nemyslíš si, že jsem nějak změkkošrdcatěl, že ne?“

21

Tanya twisting the first ball against me, I say, "You'd tell me if I sounded too needy, wouldn't you?"  
Táňa do mě kroutí první kuličku a já se ptám: „Řekla bys mi to, kdybych se projevoval moc lítostivě, žejo?“

22

I ask, she doesn't believe this junk, does she?  
Snad přece nevěří všem těm hovadinám, to snad ne, ptám se.

23

Smoke unwinds from the burning end of the tube, and Denny says, "You're not going to let it hurt me, are you?"  
Z hořícího konce trubičky se vznáší kouř a Denny povídá: „Ale nenecháš to, aby mě to popálilo, že ne?“

24

I say, "You don't do that stuff, do you?"  
„Ale ty to neděláš, že ne?“ ptám se.

**[IK]: Ishiguro, Kazuo**

25

'You wouldn't have believed it, would you?'  
„Tomu bys nevěřila, vid?“

26

'It hardly matters now, does it?'  
„Teď už na tom přece nesejde.“

27

'But we men will enjoy it, won't we, Ichiro?'  
„Ale nám mužským se to líbit bude, ne, Ičiró?“

28

'Well, we can't go tomorrow, can we, Ichiro?'  
„Zítra přece jít nemůžeme, Ičiró.“

29

'Anyway, we decided a long time ago. Didn't we, Ichiro?'

„To jsme přece dohodli už dávno, vid', Ičiró?“

30

'He won't enjoy a film like that, will he, Setsuko?'

„Ten se mu nemůže líbit, co myslíš, Secuko?“

31

'We can't have the women ruling over us, can we?'

„Přece nedovolíme, aby nám vládly ženské, ne?“

32

'This is the path leading down from Nishiyama hill, is it not? Certainly you've caught the likeness very well. That's just how it looks coming down the hill. Very skilful.'

„Tohle je cesta z kopce Nišijama? [...]“

33

'I don't expect, Masuji, you have much time for wandering priests, do you?'

„Nejspíš nemáš mnoho času na potulné kněze, vid', Masudži?“

34

'We do, after all, wish him to become someone we can be proud of, don't we?'

„Chceme přece, aby vyrostl v člověka, na něž budeme moci být hrdí, ne?“

35

'Aunt Noriko, you'd be far too scared to see the film, wouldn't you?'

„Teta Noriko, že by ses na tom filmu děsně bála, vid'?“

36

'Aunt Noriko's disobedient, isn't she, Oji?'

„Teta Noriko neposlouchá, že ne?“

37

'But Mr Kuroda is well spoken of, isn't he, Mitsuo?'

„Ale o panu Kurodovi se mluví s úctou, vid', Micuo,“ podotkl pan doktor Saitó.

38

'Well, Ichiro, I said, still laughing, 'we men had better keep the sake to ourselves then, hadn't we?'

„No, Ičiró,“ smál jsem se, „možná bychom si my mužští měli nechat saké pro sebe, ne?“

39

'We can't have the women bossing us around now, can we?'

„Přece už se nemůžeme nechat od ženských komandovat, ne?“

40

'Women can't handle sake, can they, Oji?' he said, and giggled into his pillow.

„Ženské nezvládnou saké, že ne, odží?“ zahihňal se do polštáře.

**[PE]: Peters, Ellis**

41

'There's no complaint of my men down there, is there?'

„Nikdo si tam snad na mé lidi nestěžoval?“

42

'Son,' said Cadfael, 'you know, do you not, what will be said?'

„Synku, víš přece, co se bude říkat?“

43

'It would have been better, would it not, if you had spoken earlier, and spared him the journey that was his death?'

„Nebývalo by lepší, kdybys byl promluvil dřív a ušetřil mu cestu, která pro něho znamenala smrt?“

44

'They will feed him, will they not?'

„Dají mu najíst, vidíte?“

45

'That is today, is it not?'

„To je dnes, vidíte?“

46

If it were reasonable it could not be miraculous, could it?

Kdyby to odpovídalo rozumu, nebyl by to přece zázrak, ne?

**[RP]: Roth, Philip**

47

He came back alive, didn't he?

On se vrátil živý, ne?

48

Hip as he imagines himself, he really can't get this old man and sex, can he?

Ať si hraje na sebekrokovějšího, nedokáže pochopit, jak jde tenhle starý pán a sex dohromady, že?

49

"I've seen men get hit with a punch that they never saw coming. And when that happens," Mr. Silk said, "their eyes don't get watery—when that happens, it knocks them cold. Even Joe Louis, if you recall, was knocked cold—wasn't he? Am I mistaken? And if Joe Louis can be knocked cold, Coleman, so can you."

„Viděl jsem, jak chlapy položila rána a vůbec netušili, odkud přišla. A to když se stane,“ řekl pan Silk, „nemají v očích slzy – to když se stane, zůstanou ležet v bezvědomí. Dokonce i Joe Louis, jestli se pamatuješ, zůstal ležet úplně tuhý – nemám pravdu? Mýlím se snad? A jestli se tohle stalo Joe Louisovi, Coleman, může se to stát i tobě.“

50

"You're a black nigger, ain't you, boy?"

„Že ty seš bílej negr, vid', chlapečku?“

51

"No, you don't, do you? Instead, whatever you're told about a man my age, however ludicrous, however malicious and absurd, you believe."

„No jasně, samozřejmě! Místo toho věříš čemukoli, co ti kdo o člověku v mém věku napovídá, ať je to sebevětší nehoráznost, zlomyslnost či absurdita.“

52

"Then," Delphine said lightly, "there's the problem, isn't it?"

„Takže,“ prohlásila Delphine veselým tónem, „tady máme problém, že?“

53

Because we don't know, do we?

Protože my nevíme, že?

54

"You want to know if I see an old man, don't you? You're afraid I'll see an old man and I'll run. You're afraid that if I see all the differences from a young man, if I see the things that are slack and the things that are gone, you'll lose me. Because you're too old. But you know what I see?"

„Chceš vědět, jestli vidím starce, že jo? Bojíš se, že uvidím starce a uteču. Bojíš se, že když uvidím všechno, čím se lišíš od mladýho chlapa, když uvidím všechno, co povolilo, a všechno, co zmizelo, že mě ztratíš. Protože jsi příliš starý. Ale víš, co já vidím?“

55

I have a place to go to, don't I?

Mám přece kam jít, ne?

56

"He can come out, can't he? He can come just for a minute."

„Může ven z klece, že ano. Může na minutku ven.“

57

Not that I was sure there was any connection, any circuitry looping the one decision to the other, but we could try to look and see, couldn't we?

Ne že bych si byl jist, že tu nějaká spojitost existovala, jakýkoli vodivý obvod spojující jedno rozhodnutí s druhým, ale mohli bychom se přece pokusit nahlédnout a pochopit, ne?

58

"Well, I still tend to isolate, don't I? What do you think I'm doin' out here?"

„No, ještě pořád mám sklon vyhejbat se lidem, že? Co myslíte, že tady venku dělám?“

59

"Good enough. And you know your ice fishing now, don't you? Maybe you want to write a book about that instead of a whodunit."

„Jasně. A teď už víte o rybaření v zimě všechno, ne? Možná byste měl napsat takovou knížku místo psát o tom, kdo to udělal.“

60

"But you won't tell nobody, will you? It's nice to have a secret spot. You don't tell anybody about 'em. You learn not to say anything."

„Ale vy to nikomu neřeknete, že ne? Je dobrý mít tajný místa, když o nich nikomu neříkáte. Naučíte se neříkat nic.“

**[RJK]: Rowling, J.K.**

61

"Sh -- she's not coming here, is she?"

„Sn-snad k nám nejede na návštěvu?“

62

"It's a lot to remember. I'll have to make it sound convincing, won't I? What if I accidentally let something slip?"

„Je to hrozně dlouhé na zapamatování. Já ale budu muset lhát přesvědčivě, že? Co když mi náhodou něco uklouzne?“

63

"You'll get the stuffing knocked out of you, won't you?" roared Uncle Vernon, advancing on Harry with his fist raised.

„V tom případě z tebe vymlátím duši, rozumíš?“ zařval strýc Vernon a přistoupil k Harrymu se zaťatou pěstí.

64, 65

"Yep," said Stan proudly, "anywhere you like, long's it's on land. Can't do nuffink underwater. 'Ere," he said, looking suspicious again, "You did flag us down, **dincha?** Stuck out your wand 'and, **dincha?**"

„Jasnačka,“ potvrdil hrdě Stan, „kamkoli budeš chtít, pokud to teda bude na zemi. Pod vodou jezdit neumí. Hele,“ zatvářil se znovu podezřívavě, „přece sis nás vodmávnul, nebo snad ne? Vystrčíls přece ruku s hůlkou, žejo?“

66

"Don't listen properly, do they? Don't look properly either. Never notice nuffink, they don't."

„Dyť neuměj kloudně poslouchat, hele. Neuměj ani kloudně koukat. Nikdy si ničeho nevšimnou, ani omylem.“

67

"Scary-lookin' fing, inee?" said Stan, who had been watching Harry read.

„Pěkně strašidelnej zjev, co?“ poznamenal Stan, který Harryho při čtení článku pozoroval.

68

"Yep," said Stan, "in front of witnesses an' all. Broad daylight. Big trouble it caused, dinnit, Ern?"

„Jo,“ přikývl Stan. „A ještě ke všemu před svědkama. Za denního světla! Byl z toho hroznej malér, žejo, Erne?“

69

"Yeah, that's right. Very close to You-Know-'Oo, they say. Anyway, when little 'Arry Potter got the better of You-Know-'Oo --"

Harry nervously flattened his bangs down again.

"-- all You-Know-'Oo's supporters was tracked down, wasn't they, Ern? Most of 'em knew it was all over, wiv You-Know-'Oo gone, and they came quiet. But not Sirius Black. I 'eard he thought 'e'd be second-in-command once You-Know-'Oo 'ad taken over."

„Jo, to teda byl. Říká se, že byl Ty-víš-s-kým jedna ruka... Každopádně je jasný, že když dal malej Harry Potter“ - Harry si znovu nervózně připlácl čupřinu vlasů k čelu – „Ty-víš-komu na frak, ouřady všechny jeho přívržence vyčenichaly, nemám pravdu, Erne? Většina se smířila s tím, že je po všem, a když byl Ty-víš-kdo pryč, bez odporu se vzdali. Sirius Black ale ne. Slyšel jsem, že počítal, že až se Ty-víš-kdo dostane k moci, stane se jeho prvním zástupcem.“

70

"Jus' stood there an' laughed. An' when reinforcements from the Ministry of Magic got there, I 'e went wiv em quiet as anyfink, still laughing 'is 'ead off. 'Cos 'e's mad, inee, Ern? Inee mad?"

„Prostě tam stál a chechtal se. A když dorazily posily z ministerstva kouzel, šel s nima klidně jako beránek a pořád ještě se řehtal jak blázen. Von je totiž úplnej šílenec, žejo, Erne? Že je to cvok?“

71

"They 'ad a job coverin' it up, din' they, Ern?"

„Byla to pořádná fuška, než to všechno zatušovali, žejo, Erne," pokračoval Stan.“

72

"Never been a breakout from Azkaban before, 'as there, Ern? Beats me 'ow 'e did it. Frightenin', eh? Mind, I don't fancy 'is chances against them Azkaban guards, eh, Ern?"

„Z Azkabanu zatím ještě nikdy nikdo neutek, že ne, Erne? Nechápu, jak se mu to povedlo. Člověka z toho mrazí, co? Stejně si ale myslím, že proti těm azkabanským strážným nemá šanci, co říkáš, Erne?“

73

"Ear about that 'Arry Potter? Blew up 'is aunt! We 'ad 'im 'ere on the Knight Bus, di'n't we, Ern? 'E was tryin' I to run for it..."

„Slyšeli ste vo tom Harry Potterovi? Jak nafouknul svou tetičku? Měli jsme ho tady v našem záchranném autobusu, žejo, Erne? Chtěl prásknout do bot...“

74

"Don't want to lose you again, do we?" said Fudge with a hearty laugh.

„Nechceme přece, aby ses nám zase ztratil, že ne?“ zasmál se žoviálně Popletal.

75

"It's the fastest broom in the world, isn't it, Dad?" squeaked a boy younger than Harry, who was swinging off his father's arm.

„To je nejrychlejší koště na světě, že, tati," vypískl chlapec mladší než Harry, který visel otci na ruce.

76

"Your dad doesn't know why Fudge let me off, does he?"

„Tvůj tatka by asi nevěděl, proč mě vlastně Popletal nepotrestal, že?“

77

"Probably 'cause it's you, isn't it?" shrugged Ron, still chuckling.

„Nejspíš proto, žeš to byl právě ty, nemyslíš?“ pokrčil rameny Ron a stále se tiše pochechtával.

78

"He's gorgeous, isn't he?" said Hermione, glowing.

„No není úžasný?“ zajíkala se nadšením Hermiona.

79

"He didn't mean to, did you, Crookshanks?" said Hermione.

„On to neudělal schválně, že ne, Křivonožko?“ omlouvala ho Hermiona.

80

"Do you realize how much luggage you've all got between you? A nice sight you'd be on the Muggle Underground.... You are all packed, aren't you?"

„Uvědomujete si, jakou spoustu zavazadel budete vy všichni dohromady mít? To by na vás byl v mudlovské podzemní dráze pěkný pohled... Doufám, že už jste všichni sbalení?“

81

"There's only one vacancy, isn't there? Defense Against the Dark Arts."

„V profesorském sboru je jen jedno neobsazené místo, ne? Obrana proti černé magii.“

82

"He looks like one good hex would finish him off, doesn't he? Anyway..." He turned to

Harry. "What were you going to tell us?"

„Vypadá, jako by ho mohlo vyřídit každé pořádnější zaklínadlo, nezdá se vám? Ted' ale..." obrátil se k Harrymu, "cos nám to vlastně chtěl říct?“

83

"But they'll catch him, won't they?" said Hermione earnestly.

„Však oni ho chytí, nemyslíte?“ otázala se ustaraně Hermiona.

84

"But Hogsmeade's a very interesting place, isn't it?" Hermione pressed on eagerly.  
„Prasinky jsou ale i jinak hrozně zajímavé, že?" skočila mu dychtivě do řeči Hermiona.

85

"He wasn't so cocky last night when the dementors were down at our end of the train. Came running into our compartment, didn't he, Fred?"

„Včera večer si takhle nevyskakoval, když mozkomorové procházeli náš konec vlaku. Vletěl k nám do kupé, jako by mu hořela koudel u zadku, že jo, Frede?"

[GJ]: Grisham, John

86

"They can't do that. Can they? Surely not."

„To nemůžou udělat. Můžou? Určitě ne."

87

"You wanna keep the money, don't you?" he asked.

„Chceš si přece nechat peníze, ne?" zeptal se.

88

"You have the money, don't you?"

„Vy máte ty peníze, že ano?"

89

"Yeah, but you ain't here 'cause you got lawyers, Lance, are you? You're here 'cause you need help. Lawyers can't do what she needs."

„Ano, ale ty tady nejsi kvůli právníkům, Lanci, že ne? Jsi tady, protože potřebuješ pomoc. Právníci neudělaj to, co ona potřebuje."

90

"You didn't sleep much last night, did you?"

„Včera jsi toho moc nenaspal, že ne?"

91

"I've seen the burns, haven't I! Hell, the whole world has seen the burns."

„Vždyť jsem viděl ty spáleniny! Kčertu, ty spáleniny viděl celý svět!"

92

"Come on, Sheriff, what are his chances of escape? He's injured, handcuffed, surrounded by all these people. What the hell's he gonna do? Break and run? You guys aren't that slow, are you?"

„Ale jděte, šerife, jakou má šanci na útěk? Je zraněn, spoután, obklopen tolika lidmi. Co kruci zmůže? Vytrhne se a bude utíkat? Přece nejste tak pomalí, nebo jste?"

93

"Guess I look different, don't I?"

„Asi vypadám jinak, že jo?"

94

"Yes. Pathetic, wasn't it?"

„Ano. Trapné, vidíte?"

95

"Disastrous, isn't it?" Sandy said when J. Murray had finished.

„Katastrofa, že?" ozval se Sandy, když J. Murray dočetl.

96

"You can't keep this case, can you, Karl?"

„Ty si tenhle případ nemůžeš nechat, že ne, Karle?"

97, 98

"I guess it sounds romantic, **doesn't it?** The dream of simply walking away, vanishing into the night and when the sun comes up you're somebody new. All your problems are left behind-the drudgery of work, the heartbreak of a bad marriage, the pressure of becoming more and more affluent. You have that dream, **don't you**, Karl?"

„Zřejmě to vypadá romanticky, vid'?" Takový sen, prostě odejít, zmizet do noci, a když slunce vyjde, jsi někdo jiný. Všechny problémy necháš za sebou – otročinu v práci, bolest z nezdařeného manželství, tlak být stále bohatší. Taky máš takový sen, vid', Karle?"

99

"Yes. You've seen the burns, haven't you?"

„Ano. Viděl jste přece ty rány na jeho těle, ne?“

100

"He can't hear Patrick's case, can he?" she asked.

„On nemůže Patricka soudit, že ne?“ zeptala se.

101

"We'll probably need it, won't we?"

„Nejspíš ji budeme potřebovat, že?“

102

"According to our records, you entered the country eight days ago, here in Miami, on a flight from London which originated in Zurich. Eight days, and no luggage. Seems odd, doesn't it?"

„Podle našich záznamů jste vstoupila do země před osmi dny zde v Miami, přiletěla jste letadlem z Londýna, které startovalo z Curychu. Osm dní a žádná zavazadla. Nezdá se vám to divné?“

103

"Surely he wouldn't keep the tapes for four years, would he?" Vitrano asked.

„Určitě by si neschoval kazety čtyři roky, co myslíš?“ zeptal se Vitrano.

104

"You enjoy the harassment, don't you?"

„Vás těší buzerace, že jo?“

105

"Maybe not with you, but you won't be on the jury, will you? Anyway, these injuries were the result of prolonged torture, inflicted by men working for Jack Stephano, who was working for several clients, one of whom happened to be Northern Case Mutual, a very proud publicly owned company with a solid reputation for corporate responsibility and six billion in stockholders' equity."

„Možná ne u vás, ale vy nebudete v porotě, že? Tahle poranění jsou výsledkem dlouhého mučení – díla mužů ve službách Jacka Stephana, který pracoval pro několik klientů. Jeden z nich je náhodou Northern Case Mutual, velmi hrdá akciová společnost s reputací vážené firmy a šesti miliardami akciového kapitálu.“

106

"It was a pretty light casket, wasn't it?" Sandy said.

„Byla to hodně lehká rakev, že?“ poznamenal Sandy.

107

"You have an excuse for everything, don't you, Patrick?"

„Ty máš výmluvu na všechno, vid', Patricku?“

108

Patrick chuckled, and said, "You like the details, don't you?"

Patrick se zachechtal a řekl: „Ty máš rád detaily, vid'?“

109

"He stole the damned money, didn't he? He burned up that dead body. Let the boy serve ten years in Parchman. That 's justice."

„Ukradl ty zatracený peníze, ne? Spálil mrtvolu. Jen ať si chlapec odsedí deset let v Parchmanu. To je spravedlnost.“

110

"Then somebody screwed up, didn't they?"

„Tak to někdo podělal, že jo?“

**[OM]: Ondaatje, Michael**

111

"You like women, don't you? You liked them."

„Ty máš ženy rád, vid'? Měl jsi je rád.“

112

"You need another hand to cut it, don't you?"

„Copak nepotřebujete další ruku, abyste ho přerušil?“

113



"I wasn't taken advantage of, was I? Adding, "Just joking," as she saw him beginning to blush.  
„Nevyužil situace, co? Dělá si jen legraci," dodala, když viděla, že se začíná červenat.

114

You think I'm angry at you, don't you?  
Ty si myslíš, že se na tebe zlobím, vid'.

115

"If I gave you my life, you would drop it. Wouldn't you?"  
„Kdybych ti dala svůj život, odhodil bys ho. Že je to tak?"

116

"It doesn't matter what side he was on, does it?"  
„Přece snad na tom nezáleží, na čí byl straně."

117

"I trust you, Mr. Singh, you know that, don't you?"  
„Věřím vám, pane Singhu, to přece víte, že ano?"

118

How did Odysseus die? A suicide, wasn't it?  
Nebyla to sebevražda?

**[SD]: Steel, Danielle**

119

"You don't sleep with him, do you?"  
„Nespíte s ním, vidíte?"

120

"Oh, shit. You mean that, don't you?"  
„A do háje. Ty to myslíš vážně, že jo?"

121

"Of course I do. But I already have you, don't I? Do we need papers to prove it?"  
„Samozřejmě že ano. Jenže vždyť tě už mám. Potřebujeme na to papír?"

122

"That's what the vows are supposed to mean, isn't it?"  
„Proto se skládají sliby, nebo ne?"

**[IJ]: Irving, John**

123

'This boy looks a lot like Thomas, doesn't he?' he asked.  
„Tenhle chlapec se hodně podobá Thomasovi, nemyslíš?" zeptal se.

124

'You began your career writing *novels*, didn't you?' the nastier of the ultraliterary types might ask Ted.  
„Na začátku kariéry jste psal romány, že?" zeptal se třeba nejodpornější z těch nadutých literátů.

125

Until now, she'd assumed that Ted, in his fashion, still loved her; yet *he* was the one who was initiating their separation, wasn't he?  
Doposud se domnívala, že Ted ji svým způsobem stále miluje. A přesto je to on, kdo je iniciátorem jejich rozluky.

126

'You can drive, can't you?' she asked.  
„Umiš přece řídit?" zeptala se.

127

'I know boys your age - you love to drive every chance you get, don't you?'  
„Znám chlapce ve tvém věku - rádi řídíte, kdykoli dostanete příležitost. Že je to tak?"

128

'Ruth had a dream,' her father said. 'Didn't you, Ruthie?'  
„Že je to tak, Rutinko?"

129

'Ruth knows all the stories - don't you, Ruthie?'

„Rút všechny příběhy zná, že ano, Rutinko?“

130

'It's what boys your age *do*, isn't it? Can you imagine not doing it?' she asked him.

„Tohle přeci chlapci tvého věku dělají, ne? Dovedeš si představit, že bys to nedělal?“

131

'Oh, I don't mean to assume that you were thinking about me. Goodness, that's rather conceited of me, isn't it? Maybe it was just my clothes. I'm still flattered, even if it was just my clothes. You probably have lots of girls to think about. . .'

„Víš, netroufnu si myslet, že jsi doopravdy myslel na mě. Třeba to byly jenom moje šaty. A přesto mi to lichotí, i když to bylo jenom moje oblečení. Asi myslíš na spoustu děvčat...“

132

'But for a *boy*. . . my goodness, it's all boys want, isn't it? Boys and men,' she added.

„Ale u chlapce... proboha, chlapci přeci nic jiného nechtějí, vid'. Chlapci i muži.“ dodala.

133

'But you *still* haven't had sex, have you?' she asked.

„Ale ty jsi ještě stále sex nepoznal, vid'?“ zeptala se.

134

When Eddie was once again in bed beside Marion, Marion whispered, as if to herself, 'Now that wasn't so bad, was it? Now we can stop worrying about that.'

Když pak znovu ležel v posteli vedle Marion, zašeptala, jako kdyby mluvila sama pro sebe: „Nebylo to tak zlé, vid'. Ted' si s tím už nemusíme dělat starosti.“

135

'I said she was *zonked*. Wasn't she?'

„Říkal jsem, že byla v tranzu. Nebylo to tak?“

136

'He's coming Friday, isn't he? I have the whole day to see him Friday - he knows I have the whole day. He knows!'

„Přijde v pátek, že ano. Mám pro něho celý pátek volno - ví, že mám celý den. Ví to!“

137

'Did he show you those drawings? Did you look at them? Goddamn you - you looked at them, didn't you?' she cried.

„Ukázal ti ty kresby? Prohlížel sis je? Ztraceně - ty sis je prohlížel, vid'?“ křičela.

138

'Well, you know how to do it, don't you?' the small, dark woman asked.

„No, zvládneš to přece, ne?“ zeptala se tmavá ženuška.

139

'You're not exactly living an unsordid life yourself - are you?' Mrs Vaughn asked the boy.

„Sám taky nežiješ tak zrovna neposkvrněným životem-že je to tak?“ napadla paní Vaughanová chlapce.

140

'Yes, of course! No problem! You live in Sagaponack, don't you? I'll take you myself! Well... I'll have to call my wife. She may be shopping, but not for long. You see, my car is in the shop.'

„Samozřejmě! To není problém! Bydlíte v Sagaponacku, že? Odvezu vás tam sám! No... budu muset zavolat manželce. Je asi na nákupu, ale nebude tam dlouho. Víte, moje auto je v servisu.“

141

'Then you won't mind *writing*, will you?'

„Takže vám psaní nebude působit potíže, že?“

142

'You were planning to get a divorce, anyway, weren't you?'

„Přece jste plánoval, že se stejně rozvedete, že je to tak?“

143

'So ... Marion takes every existent photograph of the boys that she can lay her hands on - and all the negatives, too - and she goes off to be a writer, because the boys' death is the only subject that keeps presenting itself to her, although she can't write about it. Yeah...' Ted said, 'that makes a lot of sense, doesn't it?'

„Takže. Marion sebere všechny existující fotografie chlapců, kterých se může zmocnit - i všechny negativy - a odejde se stát spisovatelkou, protože smrt chlapců je jediné téma, které se jí stále vnucuje, třebaže o něm nemůže psát. No... to ale nedává moc smysl, nemyslíš?“

144

'But she's leaving you, too, isn't she, Eddie?' Ted asked the sixteen-year-old.

„Ale tebe opouští také, vid' Eddie?“ zeptal se Ted šestnáctiletého.

145

'You don't expect her to ring you up for a rendezvous, do you?'

„Nečekáš, že ti zavolá a dá si s tebou rande, že ne?“

146

'You told me that you asked Marion to tell it to you, but Marion can't handle this story. It turns her to stone, just thinking about it. You remember when you turned her to stone by just asking her about it - don't you, Eddie?'

„Říkal jsi mi, že jsi žádal Marion, aby ti ho vyprávěla, ale Marion tenhle příběh není schopná zvládnout. Promění se v kámen, kdykoli si na něj třeba jen vzpomene. Přece se pamatuješ, jak zkameněla, když ses jí na ten příběh jenom zeptal.“

147

"Oh, Ted - Tommy 's gone. Tommy 's gone. Can you see Timmy? Timmy's not gone, too - is he? Can you see if he's gone?"

„Ach, Tede - Tommy odešel. Tommy nám odešel. Vidiš Timothyho? Timmy nemohl taky odejít, vid' Nevidíš, jestli taky neodešel?“

**[FJ]: Franzen, Jonathan**

148

"Those aren't *leather*, are they?"

„Snad nejsou *kožený*?“

149

"He and his wife just had their fourth child. I told you, didn't I, they built that *enormous* house out in Paradise Valley— Al, didn't you count eight bedrooms?"

„Jeho manželce se zrovna narodilo čtvrté dítě. A říkala jsem ti přece, že si postavili *obrovský* dům nahoře v Paradise Valley - Ale, žes tam napočítal osm ložnic, vid'?“

150

(*You're not cohabiting with our son, are you?*)

(*Nežijete na hromádce s mým synem, že?*)